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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	HA-09	H-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-01	SP-01	SSO-00
	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	/041W		
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INFO USCINCO QUARRY HTS PM PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 01441

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MARR, VE
SUBJECT: CAP ANNOUNCES RESTRUCTURING OF THE ARMY

1. (C) SUMMARY: CAP HAS ANNOUNCED, IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED LATE FEBRUARY 10, A RESTRUCTURING OF THE VENEZUELAN ARMY (THE MOST IMPORTANT ARMED SERVICE AND ELEMENTS OF WHICH WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTEMPTED COUP). THE DOCUMENT MENTIONS CHANGES ONLY AT SENIOR LEVELS OF THE INSTITUTION, LEAVING THEIR FULL EXTENT AND SIGNIFICANCE AS YET UNCLEAR. MEANWHILE, THE NEW COMMANDERS OF THE MILITARY GARRISONS IN MARACAY, MARACAIBO AND VALENCIA AND OF THE 42ND PARATROOPER BRIGADE BASED IN MARACAY HAVE BEEN SWORN IN. END SUMMARY.

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CAP ANNOUNCES RESTRUCTURING OF THE ARMY

3. (U) CAP ANNOUNCED THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ARMY IN A COMMUNIQUE DATED FEBRUARY 10. CITING HIS AUTHORITY AS PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORGANIC LAW ON THE ARMED FORCES, THE DOCUMENT STATES THAT CAP HAS INSTRUCTED THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO RESTRUCTURE THE ARMY AT THE SENIOR LEVELS OF GARRISON COMMAND, MAJOR COMBAT UNITS, HIGHER LEVEL UNITS, STAFF DIRECTORATES AND OPERATIVE UNITS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 10 FEB 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 03 AUG 2006 200503206

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4. (U) THE DOCUMENT CONTINUES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE RESTRUCTURING IS STRENGTHENING OF THE MILITARY AS AN INSTITUTION THROUGH CHANGES INTENDED TO ENHANCE ITS RESOURCES. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CITES AS A REASON FOR THE CHANGES THE "NEUTRALIZATION OF THE NATURAL, NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES WHICH COULD AFFECT THOSE OFFICERS WHO DIRECTLY EXPERIENCED IN THEIR POSITIONS OF COMMAND THE CRIMINAL ACTION ATTEMPTING TO OVERTHROW THE STATE OF LAW AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS." THE DOCUMENT CAUTIONS THAT "IT IS NOT A MATTER OF PREJUDGING OR MAKING STATEMENTS IN ANY WAY ABOUT THE CONDUCT OR LOYALTY OF THOSE OFFICERS BEING RELIEVED OR ROTATED FROM THEIR POSITIONS, WHO, ON THE CONTRARY, HAVE REPEATEDLY DEMONSTRATED THEIR VOCATION OF SERVICE, RESPECT, LOYALTY AND ATTACHMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS."

5. (U) THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO INCLUDES AN ADMONITION TO THE MEDIA TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY SHOULD BE "CAREFUL IN THE PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION AND COMMENTARIES ABOUT
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DECISIONS BEING TAKEN ABOUT MOVEMENTS AND CHANGES IN THE ARMED FORCES, TAKING CARE TO BE CLEAR AND CERTAIN ABOUT THE INFORMATION IN ORDER ADEQUATELY TO ORIENT PUBLIC OPINION IN THIS DIFFICULT HOUR OF DANGER TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUE OF LIBERTY, FOR WHICH THE ARMED FORCES HAVE FOUGHT IN A HEROIC MANNER ALONGSIDE THE PEOPLE."

NEW COMMANDERS SWORN IN

6. (U) THE MEDIA REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 11 THAT THE NEW COMMANDERS OF THE MILITARY GARRISONS IN MARACAY, MARACAIBO AND VALENCIA AND OF THE 42ND PARATROOPER BRIGADE BASED IN MARACAY HAD BEEN SWORN IN BY ARMY COMMANDER RANGEL ROJAS THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE NEW COMMANDERS ARE: BRIGADIER GENERAL MOISES OROZCO, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, MARACAY, REPLACING DIOGENES MARICHALES; BRIGADIER GENERAL ALBERTO ESQUEA, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, MARACAIBO, REPLACING NESTOR LARA; GENERAL HERNAN BARROSO, 41ST ARMORED BRIGADE, VALENCIA, REPLACING JUAN JOSE FERRER; AND GENERAL JAMES PRATO, 42ND PARATROOPER BRIGADE, MARACAY, REPLACING CARLOS MORENO. THE INCUMBENTS OF THESE COMMANDS WERE RELIEVED OVER THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 9-10.

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